

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**Final Meeting Notes**

**September 21, 2007**

Casa Las Palmas  
323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. · Santa Barbara, CA

**Attending:**

<u><b>Government Representatives:</b></u>	<u><b>Community Representatives:</b></u>
<u>National Park Service</u>	<u>Tourism</u>
Member Russell Galipeau	Member Lauri Baker
Alternate Gary Davis	Alternate Andrea Moe
<u>US Coast Guard</u>	<u>Non-Consumptive Recreation</u>
Alternate Scott Young	Alternate Carolyn Greene
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u>	<u>Commercial Fishing</u>
Alternate Steve Hudson	Alternate Bruce Steele
<u>Department of Defense</u>	<u>Business</u>
Member Steven Schwartz	Member Bill Spicer
Alternate Walt Schobel	<u>Conservation</u>
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u>	Member Linda Krop
Member Melissa Neuman	Alternate Greg Helms
Alternate Elizabeth Petras	<u>Recreational Fishing</u>
<u>Santa Barbara County</u>	Member David Bacon
Member Dianne Black	Alternate Merit McCrea
Alternate Michelle Gibbs	<u>Education</u>
<u>Ventura County</u>	Alternate Dan Powell
Alternate Marilyn Miller	<u>Public-At-Large</u>
	Member Phyllis Grifman
	Member Eric Kett
	Alternate Matt Lum
	<u>Chumash Community</u>
	Alternate Reggie Pagaling
	<u>Research</u>
	Member Dr. Bob Warner

**Absent:**

<b><u>Government Representatives:</u></b>	<b><u>Community Representatives:</u></b>
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Member Ronald Fien	<u>Chumash Community</u> Member Paulette Cabugos
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Alternate Dr. Ann Bull Member Dr. Fred Piltz	<u>Public-At-Large</u> Alternate John Rennell
<u>CA Resources Agency</u> Member Brian Baird Alternate Amy Boone	<u>Business</u> Alternate Capt. Manfred H.K Aschemeyer
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u> Member Barbara Carey	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Member Jim Marshall
<u>Ventura County</u> Member Lyn Krieger	<u>Education</u> Member Barbara LaCorte
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Member Marija Vojkavich Alternate John Ugoretz	<u>Research</u> Alternate Bernardo Broitman
	<u>Non-Consumptive Recreation</u> Member Scott Dunn

**Attendance**

14 of the Council's 21 voting seats were present at roll call, subsequently increasing to 16 voting seats. The total number of Council representatives (members and alternates) peaked at 24. Public attendance varied from 6 to 12 people.

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

***New Members***

Melissa Neuman was introduced as the new member for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) seat. She replaces Mark Helvey.

Melissa Neuman introduced herself and noted that she is with NMFS Protected Resources Division in Long Beach where she works on white abalone recovery, and potential black abalone ESA listing. She also works on green sturgeon throughout west coast; the southern population of green sturgeon was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2006. She deals with all protected resource issues that are not salmon, marine mammals, or sea turtles. She works on listing and recovery planning, and has experience working at the Channel Islands on abalone issues, and kelp forest monitoring.

Elizabeth Petras was introduced as the new alternate for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) seat. She replaces Lyle Enriquez.

Elizabeth Petras introduced herself as the new NMFS SAC alternate from protected resources, and said that she covers all of the species Melissa does not. She works with the PFMC on fisheries issues. She said she is happy to be here.

**Meeting Notes**

The July 20, 2007 draft meeting notes were unanimously adopted as final, with the understanding that corrections will be incorporated that were provided by Bruce Steele, Carolyn Greene and Walt Schobel.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted several items in the Superintendent's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public and available at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>).

**Superintendent's Announcements:**

Chris Mobley announced that a \$100,000 grant from the NOAA Ocean Acoustics Program was just awarded to Dr. John Hildebrand to conduct acoustic monitoring in the Sanctuary, data from which will be coupled with AIS data on shipping traffic.

Chris also explained that there was a memorial gathering for Bob Rydgig, a Sanctuary and Park volunteer who recently passed away while diving at Anacapa Island. The Park has planted an ironwood tree sapling in the garden at the Park visitor's center in Bob's name.

Chris also mentioned that at a recent meeting of the Sanctuary Program's Leadership Team there was widespread recognition and appreciation expressed for the completion of the marine reserves network within CINMS. Chris also mentioned that the Senate and House marks for the fiscal year 2008 Sanctuary Program budget are the highest ever seen; however the final outcome may not be known for a while and it is expected that there will be an interim Continuing Resolution budget adopted.

Chris introduced the Sanctuary's new Research Coordinator, Dr. Steve Katz, and described his credentials. A press release about Steve was provided to Council members and is on line here: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/press/2007/pr092007.html>.

**Council Member Announcements:**

Melissa Neuman announced that Elizabeth Petras will provide some news on recent blue whale strandings. There is a pending listing under the ESA for black abalone – this has been a focus of her work at NMFS Protected Resources for the last couple of months.

Bill Spicer announced that Travel Channel listed Channel Islands as one of the ten best destinations in the West, and National Geographic Adventure magazine listed Channel Islands as a great location for eco-tourism with a moderately strenuous rating.

Bob Warner announced that on p. 15 of the SAC Superintendent's Report there is mention of moving shipping lanes in Boston to protect whales. He suggested that one item that the Advisory Council and staff may take up is a potential shift in shipping lanes to the outside of the Channel to avoid not only collisions, but also noise and pollution.

Eric Kett recommended that everyone encourage others, especially kids, to help clean up the creeks as we head into winter. He appealed to everyone to clean up trash and debris before it gets out in the Channel. Island visibility is fantastic this time of year, the islands are dry, but the water clarity and visibility is phenomenal. Lobster season opens on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, elephant seal rutting season is starting. Eric also said that the charter companies are less crowded this time of year.

Steve Schwartz announced that the Navy just started a study to collect biological oceanography data that they can use in planning documents. Geomarine out of Texas is the company helping with this. There is an existing marine assessment in the So. Cal Range, but that is being updated and the assessment is being

expanded up to Monterey. This is not part of a particular NEPA document, but is an assessment that is being done all around the world and the data can be used in NEPA and other planning documents. He noted that some Advisory Council members may be contacted about providing data and contact him if you have any questions.

Carolyn Greene made an announcement about the volunteer recognition dinner, at which award winners were Inge Rose, Kathy DeWet Oleson, Kathy Van Slyke, and Clare Fritzsche. She noted that the sanctuary and park view the volunteers as augmenting the staff. She noted that they are recruiting new volunteers and orientation meetings are coming up in November, and are noted on p. 17 of the Superintendent Report.

Elizbeth Petras noted that on Sept. 8 NMFS got a call from the USCG about a male blue whale carcass 72 feet long, in the Long Beach Harbor. The animal had been long dead, so it was difficult to determine cause of death – but they presume it had been brought in on the bow of a ship. However, it was difficult to tell if the cause of death was the ship strike. Several days later they had another report of a carcass near San Clemente Island, but they presume it is likely the same whale that had been in Long Beach. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, there was a report of a dead floating female blue whale approximately 70 feet long was sighted offshore from Santa Barbara, and the necropsy revealed that it was clearly a fresh ship strike. Another animal was observed the day before yesterday (September 19<sup>th</sup>), and scientists believe it was also a ship strike and that it will land in Ventura. NMFS is taking tissue samples of all of the stranded whales. This is unprecedented and NMFS does not know what is happening, as they have never seen three blue whales wash up within ten days. Elizabeth noted that it is common to see high numbers of blue whales in the channel, as the waters around the Channel Islands and near San Pedro are part of the feeding area for the whale. In response to questions about the potential biological removal (PBR) for the population, Elizabeth responded that she would look up the information and discuss it with interested individuals later.

Chris added that Sanctuary staff are developing trajectory models to determine whether whales came from a shipping lane or not, to try to understand these incidents and where they may have occurred.

Merit McCrea described a recent research trip aboard the R/V Shearwater to collect specimens of rockfish from the Pac Baroness. Merit announced that several years ago Bob Schwemmer observed the Pac Baroness with fish around it, despite that the ship is known to contain hazardous chemicals. Merit and his crew took samples of 9 thornyheads and 20 other rockfish, as well as a sample of 23 blackgill rockfish from San Miguel Island. Processing samples can run about \$1,000 per sample, and they need funds to process them.

Matt Lum noted that the paper had a nice picture of lobster in the paper today. However, the picture was provided by NOAA but it was not a picture of California spiny lobster, as the caption indicated.

Greg Helms noted that there is a distinct possibility that the whales were struck and killed inside the sanctuary. Also, next Saturday Surfrider is hosting the paddle out event demonstration for clean water around noon off of Stearn's Wharf.

Andrea Moe noted that this has been one of the best years to see blue whales, some days they have seen 50 or 60 off of Santa Rosa. The whale watch season is being extended because they are staying longer.

Steve Hudson noted that as the Clearwater Port LNG project progresses through the permit process he will provide updates. Verizon is planning to remove its facilities from Santa Cruz Island, and The Nature Conservancy is looking into establishing its own telecommunications facility there.

Linda Krop announced that the federal/state joint environmental review process for the Clearwater Port LNG Project has begun and scoping comments are due October 18, and there will be public open houses and hearings in Oxnard on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Santa Clarita on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Linda also noted that she participated in the annual Channel Swim, and that next year the Sanctuary Foundation will be the beneficiary. She encouraged everyone to participate next year.

Russell Galipeau thanked Carolyn for comments on the volunteer recognition dinner. He noted that in the next five to ten years the Park would like to double the number of volunteers, they have about 40 now. Channel Islands Live! Was broadcast Tuesday to 500 educators watching the program at the Ventura County Office of Education. That will be in the classroom shortly, after a few more promos. The idea is to have the program in the classroom as part of the California education standards.

Bruce Steele announced that there will be money to keep larval recruitment studies going at least through March 2008. Secondly, informally fishermen in southern California. Have started working to develop socioeconomic monitoring numbers in southern California. To follow up on what Bob Leeworthy, NOAA socioeconomic, and the sanctuary did here. Time will be limited so they thought they would get a head start on gathering data before MPAs move to southern California. He noted that there have been a lot of krill in the water and he has seen red abalone recruiting in the 4 to 6 inch range. Bruce noted that it is amazing to see abalone having a resurgence. Today on the news they announced that NOAA is expecting La Nina conditions. He predicts that we might be in a new PDO. He asked that the issue of ocean acidification be something that everyone think of, everyone needs to know about it and the consequences.

Lauri Baker thanked the Sanctuary for the recent field trip and said she had a great time.

Capt. David Bacon announced that he and some other people are starting a new non-profit. Capt. Bacon read the mission statement of this venture: "Teach enabling life skills and sense of self esteem to the challenged (including but not limited to; disabled/handicapped/impaired/elderly/youth) through one-on-one hands-on educational lessons and experiences at sea; engaging in marlinspike seamanship; viewing, identification and monitoring of marine mammals and seabirds; practicing subsistence/recreational fishing skills focusing on the principles of ethical angling; teaching ocean conservation values and water quality issues; learning about the people, infrastructure, vessel types and general job opportunities among our waterfront communities; monitoring and educating the public and resource managers about sea life and habitat."

Phyllis Grifman announced that they held the first series of workshops that will feed into the west coast governors agreement for the ocean action plan. There will be a meeting in Santa Barbara at Veteran's Hall on November 14 and they are still looking for panelists on several topics. She said that it is a really good opportunity to provide input on emerging research needs, that they can then leverage for funds. Contact Phyllis if you want to participate or have questions.

Chris Mobley added that the NMSP LT meeting they discussed ocean acidification and which sanctuary sites would be good sentinel sights for monitoring, and this is being planned. Russell added that the Climate Change Task Force includes the sanctuary and park as a case study.

Chris mentioned that the From Shore to Sea Lectures are now being recorded and broadcast on local cable T.V. This will reach more people, and the recordings can be used for other purposes as well.

#### **Presentation on Water Quality Monitoring by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Karen Worcester, Staff Environmental Scientist with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, provided an informational presentation on the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program. Her presentation slides are available upon request.

Karen's talk covered the following topics:

- RWQCB goals being set for 2025 in the areas of aquatic habitat health, watershed function, and groundwater quality;
- An overview of the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP);
- Profiles of nitrate levels at some CCAMP monitoring sites (Franklin Creek and Santa Maria River);
- An explanation of conventional water quality monitoring parameters, and map views of central coast monitoring sites;
- A description of monitoring for benthic invertebrates and habitat, as well as water and sediment toxicity;
- Results from monitoring results at central coast harbors, including sediment chemistry and toxicity, fish and mussel tissue bioaccumulation, benthic community diversity, and water column chemistry. This included special emphasis on results from Santa Barbara Harbor, where relative to other harbors levels were elevated for some sediment and marine organism tissue samples;
- An explanation of Impaired Water Body listings (Clean Water Act, 303(d)) on the central coast, as well as efforts to develop "lines of evidence" to support these listings;
- An overview of the types of data and reports available to the public on the web at [www.CCAMP.org/](http://www.CCAMP.org/);
- A description of sea otter mortality studies, including those looking at pathogens, domoic acid, and persistent organic chemicals. This included an overview of known and potential health issues associated with protozoal diseases, bacterial diseases, domoic acid poisoning, blue-green algae poisoning, bioaccumulation of chemicals, and possibly viruses;
- A discussion of what can be done, including: land management, an agricultural waiver program (requiring farmers to get water quality education, contribute to a monitoring program and report on actions they are implementing), riparian land use management (tracking impervious surfaces), promoting LID (low impact development), implementing new septic requirements, timelines for upgrades to full secondary treatment, grant funds for storm water infrastructure and maintenance of sewage infrastructure, new non-point source policy requiring all discharges to be subject to regulation, large grants for implementing Integrated Regional Watershed Plans (Santa Barbara County applied for grant funds this year), compiling data from multiple sources into a single format (for example the MBNMS helped with Central Coast Water Quality Data Synthesis, Assessment and Management or SAM project), and developing "lines of evidence" for 303(d) listing recommendations;
- Mention of a successful pollution runoff enforcement action and associated habitat restoration work on Santa Rosa Island.

Council members were very engaged with this presentation, asking many questions and providing comments throughout Karen's her talk.

## **Update on CINMS Water Quality Projects and Planning**

### ***Part 1 – Monitoring project with Santa Barbara Channel Keeper***

Jessie Altstatt, Science Director with the Santa Barbara Channel Keeper, provided a presentation on results from two seasons of taking and testing water quality samples from popular summer Anchorages within the eastern portion of the Sanctuary.

Jessie began with an explanation of what Channel Keeper does, including how the organization was formed and the types of programs and monitoring they implement.

Jessie described the type of monitoring they have been conducting within CINMS, and the locations where samples were taken in the summer of 2005 and 2007.

In describing results, Jessie noted that very few samples tested positive, and that there were no exceedances of state water quality standards. Specific results:

- 16% of samples tested positive for E. coli
- 12% of samples tested positive for Enterococci
- All samples were below the state standards of 400 MPN/100ml and 104 MPN/ 100ml Enterococci
- 2005 Highest level found at Pelican on Santa Cruz Island
- 2006 Highest level found at Keyhole on Santa Rosa Island

Jessie also pointed out the stark contrast in these results from several sampled locations along the mainland coast that exhibit much higher levels of E. coli and Enterococci.

Recommendations made by Jessie included:

- More focused effort at a few selected sites during high-use conditions
- More sampling in marine mammal neighborhoods
- Boater education about CINMS regulations
- Provide incentives/discounts/help for marine toilet upgrades

Jessie concluded that:

- There is highest vessel use in open-roadstead anchorages,
- Water motion/current appears lower in areas like Pelican,
- No or low bacteria levels in samples doesn't mean that illegal dumping does not occur,
- Revised language in CINMS regulations provide opportunity for renewed boater outreach & education

Jessie also mentioned that Santa Barbara Channel Keeper has teamed up with Dr. Diana Engle from UCSB to work on a CINMS water quality characterization report. A draft of the report will soon be submitted to CINMS staff for review.

## ***Part 2 – CINMS involvement in Bight '08 regional monitoring, and Sanctuary-Wide Monitoring Condition Report development***

Dani Lipski, CINMS Research Assistant, reported on her recent attendance of a multi-institution planning meeting for Bight '08, a regional water quality monitoring project conducted every 5 years and coordinated by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP).

Dani explained that, as in the past, CINMS plans to be involved in Bight '08, serving on the planning committee, contributing vessel time aboard the R/V Shearwater, and offering staff time.

Dani also explained that at this stage the planning committee is beginning the process of developing specific research questions to be addressed, and that field sampling will take place in July Of 2008.

Dani described some of the Bight '08 coastal ecology project ideas as including a further look at the spatial extent of contaminants, sampling to establish more confidence in temporal trends, looking at new locations and habitats for more and different contaminants, and looking further at bioaccumulation of contaminants, including perhaps at different trophic levels.

With regard to the Sanctuary's development of a Sanctuary-Wide Monitoring (SWiM) Condition Report, Dani explained the its origins and purpose. Dani noted that the report, which is mandated for each

sanctuary site by the National Marine Sanctuary Program, is intended to be an executive summary-level report of the status and trends of the resources of the sanctuary, primarily for review by members of Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and others at that level of government. It will not be, Dani emphasized, a tool to guide Superintendents' local sanctuary management decisions.

Dani explained that the SWiM Condition Report will provide background information on the sanctuary and its resources, and pose 17 questions on water quality, habitat, living resources, and maritime heritage resources.

Dani reported that for the CINMS SWiM Condition Report experts have been consulted and have provided input that has been incorporated into a draft report. The draft report is being reviewed internally, Dani said, and next we will look to have the RAP review it this fall. Dani also said that SAC members who wish to review the report should contact her, and that it might also be possible for the report to be reviewed at either the upcoming November or January SAC meetings.

With regard to the water quality section of the CINMS SWiM Condition Report, Dani mentioned that experts consulted have been Jessie Altstatt (Santa Barbara Channel Keeper), Dave Siegel (USCB), Clarissa Anderson (USCB), and Ken Schiff (SCCWRP). Generally, Dani explained, input provided thus far indicates that Sanctuary water quality is good compared to mainland areas, but that there are some issues of concern. The water quality section of the report will examine the condition and trends of stressors (e.g., domoic acid, contaminants), eutrophication, risk to human health, and threats from human activities.

### ***Part 3 – Other CINMS Water quality work and actions***

Mike Murray, CINMS Management Plan Coordinator, commented briefly on other water quality-related actions Sanctuary staff have been taking, particularly since the Advisory Council adopted a comprehensive CINMS Water Quality Needs Assessment report in 2005 (available on the web here: [http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report\\_doc.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html)).

Mike highlighted a few items from a handout that was provided to all ("*Summary of Sanctuary Advisory Council Water Quality Recommendations and CINMS Activities*"), including:

In 2007 the R/V *Shearwater* was outfitted with a Seakeepers system that continuously monitors and records sea surface temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and Redox, as well as weather information and vessel position/status. The information is transmitted via satellite and can be accessed by staff via web site.

Volunteers with the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps have been collecting water samples at various locations within and around CINMS and sending them to the California Department of Health Services, where they are processed and become part of a biotoxin report on harmful algal blooms.

Enhanced tracking capabilities of large vessel traffic tracking throughout CINMS via an expanded Automatic Identification System (AIS). After years of partnership development and facilitating a multi-agency agreement, the expanded system became operational this summer.

The Sanctuary's Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) has been expanding partnerships and conducting education programs with schools and students for the last two years, transitioning from planning to implementation. MERITO is delivering bilingual ocean conservation related products and services, often focused on water quality and watershed-related themes, to students, teachers, adults, and families living near the Santa Barbara Channel region. MERITO targets mainly Hispanics, a group that represents over one third of the Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties' population.



The Sanctuary's interest in forming a working group, when sufficient resources exist to support it, that can help refine needs and gaps for addressing water quality threats through targeted research, monitoring, education or resource protection actions. Additionally, the Sanctuary's interest in working more closely with boaters to focus education and outreach on clean boating practices.

### **Tribute to Gary Davis**

Chris Mobley and Mike Murray recognized and thanked Gary Davis for his service on the Advisory Council since 1998, and for his distinguished career in marine conservation. Chris Mobley presented Gary with an inscribed plaque, framing a beautiful photograph of Santa Cruz Island. Gary, who will be retiring from the National Park Service in October, shared thanks and thoughts with the Council.

### **Student Presentation: Plastics in the Ocean**

Kathi King and Jim Griffin, two students from Santa Barbara City College, provided a presentation about plastics that they and others in their group had previously provided to the Santa Barbara City Council.

There presentation, the slides of which are available upon request, covered the following:

- Petroleum-based single use plastics need to be eliminated, because they are:
  - Impacting Human & Wildlife Health
  - Polluting the Local Environment
  - Overfilling our Landfill
- Plastics Never Break Down!
  - Oceans are full of plastic - 6:1 ratio of plastics to plankton
  - Marine animals mistake plastic for food and die as a result
- Plastics are Suspected Toxins
  - Carcinogens
  - Endocrine Disruptors
- Ban Plastic Grocery Bags
  - 19 Billion in California Alone
  - Clog landfills, less than 1% recycled
  - Cloth bags best choice
- Ban EPS
  - What is EPS?
  - Expandable Polystyrene (aka Styrofoam, foamed plastics)
  - Derived from Crude Oil
  - Often used for carryout food containers
  - EPS food service products are not recyclable
- EPS and Plastic Bags Pollute the Environment
  - Lightweight, blow easily from trash cans and landfills into our waterways
  - Foamed plastics (EPS) and plastic bags are a significant source of coastal litter
  - Plastic litter is unsightly and undesirable for tourism
- Landfill is Reaching Capacity
  - Plastics can take hundreds of years to break down
  - Tajiguas is projected to reach capacity in the near future
- San Francisco Banned Petroleum-based Plastic Grocery Bags
  - Alternatives are safer AND stronger
  - Bans in place in many other countries
  - Other U.S. cities considering this ban
  - Best idea is to BRING YOUR OWN everywhere!

- Ordinances Banning EPS Already Exist!
  - Berkeley (Since 1990)
  - Oakland
  - Santa Cruz
  - County of Ventura
  - Calabasas
  - Malibu
  - Santa Monica
  - County of Orange
  - Many more pending
- EPS Alternatives are Available
  - Clear plastic is heavier and often recyclable
  - Paper cartons are better than EPS
- BioPlastic is BEST Option
  - Compostable
  - Price Will Come Down
  - Chance to Educate Public

The presentation peaked the interest of many Council members, who had several questions and thoughts for Kathi and Jim. Many commended and thanked them for their good work.

#### **Update on State process to incorporate gap areas into the marine reserves network**

Chris Mobley reported first that the California Fish and Game Commission met on August 10 in Santa Barbara to take comments on the matter of state closure of the gap areas between CINMS federal and state MPAs. He noted and expressed appreciation that several Council members were there, including Chair Dianne Black.

Chris mentioned that the decision hearing on this matter will be held on October 11 or 12 in Concord, CA.

Chris also summarized comments that the Department of Fish and Game has thus far received on this proposed action, reporting that a total of 16 individuals/organizations have provided 38 comments, to date, regarding the proposed regulations. Of these, 15 comments were in support of “filling the gaps” between the state and federal MPAs. An additional 6 comments advocated joint state and federal management of MPA areas, and 4 comments expressed enforcement concerns.

Chris also thanked Dan Powell for his specific work to scrutinize MPA boundary coordinates, noting that the Department of Fish and Game intends to refine some of the coordinates.

Chris also reported the official completion of the Sanctuary’s Social Science Plan for monitoring marine reserves and conservation areas, and pointed it out among the mailed handouts (also available on line here: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/mrec.html>).

Highlighting another handout, Chris also drew attention to a new one-page map product showing the location of the few expanded marine reserves network within CINMS, including lists of boundary coordinates. This product, which Chris explained is temporary until after the Fish and Game Commission finalizes the action to close the gap areas, will be subsumed by an updated version of the Protecting Your Channel Islands brochure. The map product is also available on line here: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/main.html>.

CINMS Research Assistant Dani Lipski reported on progress made toward planning a special symposium session focused on reporting the 5-year results from monitoring Channel Islands MPAs. Scientists are getting together this fall in a series of working group sessions to prepare their data and findings for subsequent presentation to the public and the California Fish and Game Commission in 2008.

Dani explained that the special symposium will be held on Feb. 7 (evening sessions on education and social science) and Feb. 8 (all-day session on biological monitoring), as free, public add-on sessions to the California Islands Symposium. All Council members are encouraged to attend these sessions.

### **Marine Reserves Education and Outreach**

CINMS Education Coordinator Julie Bursek began by providing an overview of recent developments and new plans for updating brochures and installing new signs that will help educate the public about the now expanded network of marine reserves and conservation areas within CINMS.

Julie touched on the new color scheme to be used for portraying the MPA network, and also mentioned that information will be published in the Channel Islands National Park newsletter.

With regard to new signs, Julie reported that signs have been designed and are on order for installation at local harbors, and for some of the island landing sites. Installation will come, Julie said, following final action taken by the Fish and Game Commission to incorporate the gap areas into the MPA network.

Council members engaged Julie in questions and suggestions, with recommendations including:

- Consider installing signs at bait receiver facilities, and at point-of-purchase locations for fishing license sales;
- Asking NOAA Charting to now update NOAA charts with the full MPA network depicted, such that electronic charting companies can follow suit with their products;
- Consider on signs also showing some of the Chumash place names at the Channel Islands.

Julie then described an MPA education and outreach funding proposal that the Sanctuary Program, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, recently submitted to the Ocean Protection Council. Funding of the grant was denied, Julie explained, yet the proposal still represents the direction that CINMS and Sanctuary staff from the central coast would like to see MPA education and outreach pursued.

Julie highlighted the main elements of the proposal, which was provided as a handout to all Council members, touching on staffing needs, the idea of conducting a state-wide needs assessment, and the importance of formally evaluating the effectiveness of what has been done to date at CINMS. Julie also mentioned products and tools envisioned, such as map products, brochures, web sites, signs, posters, DVDs, kiosks, PSAs, business outreach programs, and more.

Opening the discussion to suggestions, Julie received a variety of recommendations and comments from Council members, including:

- Concern that this appears to be representative of the Sanctuary Program trying to fund and implement much more education and outreach than the Department of Fish and Game, while the Department also does not want Sanctuaries to have MPA jurisdiction in state waters (Chris Mobley explained that the approach to education was of strategic design by CINMS and the Department)
- Complements on how well the Channel Islands National Park, and their Rangers, conduct on-water education and outreach;

- The importance of involving volunteers in this effort, such as the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps and perhaps the SAC's Sanctuary Education Team (SET);
- Importance of the recognition that the MPAs are not and, given how much is at stake, will not be violated by commercial fishermen
- The idea of adding an "education fee" to sport fishing licenses;
- Follow-through on the idea of creating a visually-based brochure product that shows what the boundary areas look like from the perspective of a boater looking shoreward at the islands;
- The possibility of using a shoreline-based group of naturalists, which Barbara LaCorte has been advocating for, to help raise additional public awareness;
- The possibility of working with the Port of LA/Long Beach to consider education and other needs for the Channel Islands MPAs as possible mitigation targets;
- Grant money does not often flow from Sacramento back to Washington, DC, and perhaps that is part of the reason why this proposal was not funded
- There may not have been a perception that additional resources are really needed in order for the Sanctuary Program to be able to do the kind of work mentioned in the proposal;
- Marketing of any proposal is very important, and with that should always come a clear communication of what one will ultimately get from the proposal;
- Requesting funding for staffing is often problematic within a grant proposal;
- The needs for this kind of work will only increase, so the Sanctuary should continue to look for funding sources and partners;
- Conservation areas create user confusion that requires more educational focus;
- In time poaching may become more of an issue as well;
- It might be helpful if Sanctuaries engage in the process to help define specific objectives that match up with education goals (ocean literacy) associated with the tri-state governor's agreement on ocean health.

## **Working Group Reports**

### ***Conservation Working Group***

Linda Krop reported that the Working Group met on September 19 to review items that were on today's meeting agenda, and that included a long discussion about progress that has been made on the recommendations previously suggested in the SAC-endorsed CINMS Water Quality Needs Assessment report. The Conservation Working Group is supportive of increased water quality monitoring.

Linda reported that the Working Group also discussed emerging issues, including the Clearwater Port LNG terminal proposal, which is proposed to be sited even closer to the Sanctuary than Cabrillo Port had been. The Conservation Working Group is supportive of having key agency representatives come talk to the Advisory Council at future meetings.

Linda also commented that the Conservation Working Group had discussed the work of the red abalone advisory group (AAG), based on a presentation by AAG member Jessie Altstatt.

Melissa Neuman (NMFS member) commented that perhaps the NMFS "Species of Concern" program could potentially be of assistance with regard to abalone and the need for funding monitoring activities.

### ***Research Activities Panel Working Group***

Although the RAP had not met recently, Bob Warner shared some announcements about the recent MPA monitoring field season. It has been a very busy monitoring season, Bob reported, with deep water

monitoring completed at 10 sites inside and outside of MPAs. Shallow subtidal monitoring is still ongoing and about ¾ complete, Bob reported, with double the number of sites being surveyed this year.

Bob also mentioned that analysis of monitoring results is currently underway and will be the focus of working group meetings to be held at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. Scientists will be working together to bring disparate sources of data together in preparation for public presentation next year, as well as presentation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

### ***Chumash Community Working Group***

Although the Working Group had not formally met recently, Reggie Pagaling reported on several items.

Following a Chumash welcoming, Reggie spoke about the recent blue whale deaths. Reggie indicated that for the Chumash these deaths are a very sad event, as the whales are the spirit of their people and ancestors. He indicated that Chumash people would very much like to have a ceremony for the blue whales. He also indicated that Chumash people would be very interested in acquiring rib bones from these whales, if possible, for their tomol house.

Reggie also indicated that he would like to follow-up with staff to talk about posting some of the recent blue whale news stories on the web.

Reggie also described recent news accounts and public statements made about a “Chumash Highway” designation near Los Olivos that were very disparaging toward the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, using this to underscore the continuing importance of education and outreach efforts that help to communicate what Chumash people are really about, and the work they are doing.

Reggie extended a sincere thanks to the Sanctuary for donating \$1,000 to help pay for tomol repairs needed.

Reggie spoke about the importance of creating mentorship opportunities, and the unique opportunity that the Sanctuary and Chumash community have to work together on youth mentorship programs.

Reggie told the story of the Chumash hitting a submerged rock during a practice paddle at Malibu, and the ensuing challenge to repair her in time for the annual tomol crossing event. The challenge, he said, helped to build and strengthen a community.

As for the crossing itself, Reggie described the wonderful journey as a slide show of photographs were presented. Reggie expressed deep thanks and respect for the support vessel captains that aided the paddlers, and also talked about the spiritual power and added significance of a very special Maori paddle that was carried in the tomol, and which was a gift from a Maori elder.

Reggie conveyed the significance of the level of support from the broader Chumash community by explaining how elders camped at Limuw (Santa Cruz Island) would get up several times very early in the morning to sing songs for the paddlers, who were still many miles away just beginning their journey in the dark.

Speaking about the gathering of Chumash community camped at Limuw, Reggie expressed appreciation that several SAC members had come out to visit with them and be part of the tomol landing, and he also extended an invitation to any SAC members that would like to come out there next year and camp with them.

### ***Recreational Fishing Working Group***

No report, as the group did not meet

***Commercial Fishing Working Group***

No report, as the group did not meet

***Sanctuary Education Team***

No report, as the group did not meet

**Future Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics**

***Agenda Topics***

A Council discussion on possible future agenda topics resulted in the following suggestions:

- Artificial reefs (Capt. David Bacon, Greg Helms, Eric Kett)
- Clearwater Port LNG terminal proposal (Linda Krop)
- Blue whales, (Matt Lum, Linda Krop, Elizabeth Petras)
- Shipping traffic and ship strikes (Linda Krop)
- Ocean acidification (Bruce Steele)

Regarding artificial reefs, Captain David Bacon described his interest in learning more about reef building and siting, reef types and structures, and reef efficacy. He also stated that he is interested in looking at artificial reefs as mitigation for MPA designations, and would like to see the Council agree that such mitigation is a good thing, but understands that such an agreement can't be a foregone conclusion.

Chris Mobley commented that the Advisory Council has a history of keeping an open mind to issues. He also said that there is an NMSP policy paper on artificial reefs within sanctuaries, and that presentation of that policy could be a place to start.

Greg Helms indicated that he would be happy to discuss and learn about artificial reefs, including how they work and what problems have been encountered, but he is not interested in viewing them as mitigation tools for MPAs.

Eric Kett mentioned that this topic would likely lead to discussions about "rigs to reefs." Greg Helms said that he would prefer to treat that as a separate issue, but Eric countered that because much of the science behind artificial reefs comes from rigs to reefs experiences, it might be hard to avoid it altogether.

Melissa Neuman indicated that there are people at NMFS that have done work relating to reef creation to draw fish away from polluted areas, and that perhaps these folks could bring information to the Advisory Council if it is of interest.

CINMS Research Coordinator Steve Katz pointed out that there is a distinct difference between questions about if and where reefs should be used as mitigation measures, and the actual science behind artificial reefs. Chris Mobley added that the Advisory Council has shown that it can appropriately separate the science and policy aspects of complex issues (e.g., as was done when learning about aquaculture).

Linda Krop emphasized the importance of artificial reef discussions having relevance to the Sanctuary, and suggested that with that in mind some broader issues might drop off the table.

Bruce Steele suggested that with part of the Sanctuary mandate being to restore populations, it might necessitate use of devices/reefs that offer protection to abalone.

Regarding the Clearwater Port LNG terminal project, Linda Krop suggested that permitting agency representatives come talk to the Advisory Council soon.

***Meeting Schedule***

Schedule for future 2007 SAC meetings & events:

- Thursday and Friday, October 18-19, 2007: Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council retreat and meeting. CINMS Advisory Council members are invited to attend; email invitation to follow.
- Friday, November 16, 2007: SAC Meeting, Ventura

Schedule adopted for 2008 SAC meetings:

- Friday, **January 25**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, **March 14**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Ventura
- Friday, **May 16**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, **July 18**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Ventura
- Friday, **September 19**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, **November 14**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Ventura

*Meeting highlights respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:*

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